

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 NRC-05

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 061200Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8511

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6043

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN, CA

SUBJ: NO AGREEMENT IN INDO-CANADIAN NUCLEAR TALKS

REFS: A. NEW DELHI 0657 B. NEW DELHI 5667

1. INDO-CANADIAN NUCLEAR TALKS AT THE EXPERT LEVEL WHICH OPENED IN BOMBAY ON APRIL 30 WERE ADJOURNED ON MAY 2 WITH SOME PROGRESS RECORDED, BUT NO AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC ISSUES. ACCORDING TO A CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE, THE TALKS WHICH DEALT ONLY WITH THE RAJASTHAN ATOMIC POWER PROJECT (RAPP) AGREEMENT REPRESENT ONLY A PORTION OF THE OVERALL CANADIAN APPROACH WHICH WSTILL AIMS AT ACHIEVING A DECLARATION FROM THE INDIANS THAT THEY WILL NOT EXPORT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES TECHNOLOGY. THE RAPP TALKS ARE SEEN BY THE CANADIANS AS THE FIRST STEP. IF NO AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE AT THIS LEVEL, THEN THEY WOULD CONCEDE THERE IS NO CHANCE OF ACHIEVING THEIR OVERALL OBJECTIVE.

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2. THE STUBMLING BLOCK IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS WAS

THE RELATION OF RAPP SAFEGUARDS TO A CONTINUED SUPPLY OF MATERIALS FOR THE PROJECT UNDER THE EXISTING AGREEMENT. THE CANADIANS TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE SAFEGUARDS, PRESENT AND PROPOSED, SHOULD CONTINUE ON THE BASIS OF EQUIPMENT ALREADY SUPPLIED. THE INDIANS RESPONDED THAT AN INTERRUPTION OF THE FLOW OF MATERIALS TERMINATED THE AGREEMENT AND THE SAFEGUARDS THAT ARE A PART OF THAT AGREEMENT. IN PRACTICE THE CANADIANS SOUGHT TO EXTEND THE SAFEGUARDS 1 TIME--THEY EXPIRE IN 1976--AND COVERAGE. THEY HOPE TO BRING THE IAEA IN AS AN EQUAL AND INDEPENDENT PARTNER IN A NEW TRILATERAL ARRANGEMENT. THE INDIANS WERE NOT ENTIRELY OPPOSED TO THIS, BUT INSISTED ON THE LINK TO THE RAPP AGREEMENT ITSELF. MOREOVER, THE CANADIANS BELIEVE THE INDIANS SEE THE IAEA AS AN AGENT OF THE US AND CANADA, NOT AN INDEPENDENT BODY.

3. THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER, RETRANSFER, AND RE-PROCESSING OF RAPP MATERIALS INCLUDING HEAVY WATER. THERE WAS ALSO A WILLINGNESS ON THE INDIAN SIDE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON DURATION AND PURSUIT. THE INDIANS WERE NOT WILLING TO GO AS FAR AS THE CANADIANS WISHED -- PERPETUITY, BUT THE CANADIANS CAME AWAY BELIEVING SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT IN THESE AREAS. THE PARTIES AGREED THAT THE NEW SAFEGUARDS, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT RUN 25 YEARS.

4. IN THE CORRIDORS THE CANADIANS ONCE AGAIN UNDERScored THEIR CONCERN THAT A NEW NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TEST WOULD NEGATE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THE RECEIVED NO ASSURANCES FROM THE INDIANS ON THIS POINT, BUT THOSE CANADIANS WHO TOOK PART DID NOT BELIEVE A NEW TEST IS LIKELY IN THE SHORT TERM. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THIS ROUND OF TALKS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE CABINETS, AND DETERMINE IF ANY FURTHER COMPROMISE IS POSSIBLE. THE CANADIANS SPECULATE THAT IT IS IMPROBABLY THE INDIANS WOULD BE SO IMPOLITIC AS TO DETONATE ANOTHER DEVICE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
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